



# भारतीय नौसेना

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## DEFENCE MINISTER LAYS FOUNDATION STONE FOR INDIAN COAST GUARD ACADEMY



Eminent personalities from Civil and Defence on the Dias



Defence Minister Shri AK Antony after laying the foundation stone of ICG Academy Azhikkal, Kerala. Vice Admiral Anil Chopra, DG, Indian Coast Guard, and IG SPS Basra, Commander CG Region West and eminent people's representatives from Kerala are also seen

A historic milestone in the growth of Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was achieved today when the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony laid the foundation stone of the first ever Indian Coast Guard Academy (ICGA) at Azhikkal. ICGA will be built at the 164 acre campus, on the banks of Valapattanam estuary overlooking the Arabian Sea in Kannur district of Kerala. Pertinently, the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala is also situated 20 Km north of the ICGA site thus making the famed backwaters in the region, the training hub for Indian maritime services.

Government of India accorded approval for an Academy for the ICG in 2009, as part of a series of resolute steps to substantially enhance the capabilities of the ICG in the wake of Mumbai terrorist attack of 2008. The futuristic Academy when commissioned in an expected timeframe of about three and half years, will be able to train up to 500 trainees, and will also cater for personnel from friendly foreign countries, Marine Police and the Navy in disciplines such as Search and Rescue, Marine Oil Spill Response, Maritime Law, Fisheries, and Boarding & Rummaging.

Addressing the large gathering assembled to witness the historic occasion, Shri Antony, underscored the importance, Government of India accords coastal security in view of the asymmetric threats from the sea. He also said that the Indian Coast Guard is in the process of consolidating manpower and assets to face anti national elements robustly. Shri Antony also urged the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard to never let their guard down, reminding the audience that nations which have ignored maritime security have done so only at their own peril. Earlier Vice Admiral Anil Chopra, Director General Indian Coast Guard while welcoming the gathering, said that with the setting up of ICGA, the country joins the select group of nations with their own Coast Guard Academy.

The Industries Minister of Kerala, Shri PK Kunjalikutty, eminent people's representatives of the region, and the former Industries Minister of Kerala Shri Elamaram Karim spoke on the occasion.



**Defence Minister Shri AK Antony, addressing the gathering**